FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 69 *10 April 1978*

ARGENTINA

Lawyer Slain After Jail Release; Other Slayings Suspected [HERALD 8 Apr]	B	1	1/A6
Eighth List of Detained Persons Issued	B	1	1/A6
U.S. Antiterrorist Group Called 'Repressive' [LA PRENSA 5 Apr]	B	2	1/A7

BOLIVIA

Interior Minister Refuses Request To Expel Chileans	C	1	1/A8
FSB's Gutierrez, Moreira Split Over Pereda Support	C	1	1/A8
Distribution of Deputies, Senators Announced	C	2	1/A9
PRESENCIA Urges Fair Treatment From Developed Nations [5 Apr]	C	2	1/A9
Guevara Arce Claims Book Manuscript Confiscated	C	3	1/A10

BRAZIL

ARENA Officially Nominates Figueiredo as Candidate	D	1	1/A11
Figueiredo Testimony Requested on SNI Interference	D	1	1/A11
O ESTADO Views Political Differences in Military [5 Apr]	D	1	1/A11
Minister Paulinelli: Rural Voters May Support Opposition	D	2	1/A12
Industry Minister Promises Steel Self-Sufficiency in 1982 [JORNAL DO BRASIL 4 Apr]	D	3	1/A13
Briefs: PETROBRAS Finds Oil; New Newspaper in Acre	D	3	1/A13

CHILE

Army Denies Entering Bolivian Town	E	1	1/A14
Government Orders Townley's Extradition to U.S.	E	1	1/A14
More on Other Charge	E	1	1/A14
Townley Leaves for U.S.	E	2	1/B1
Pinochet Praises Border Talks Agreement	E	2	1/B1
Press Welcomes Agreement	E	2	1/B1
Official Provides Details of Future Government	E	3	1/B2
LA TERCERA DE LA HORA Urges Dissolution of Junta [3 Apr]	E	3	1/B2
Government Modifies Gun Control Law	E	5	1/B4
Briefs: Finance Minister to Europe; French Government Promises Aid; Loan From Private Banks	E	5	1/B4

ECUADOR

Transport Sector, Students Clash Over Fare Increase	G	1	1/B5
Bus Fare Dispute Abates	G	2	1/B6
Foreign Minister Urges Closer Ties With Mexico	G	2	1/B6

PERU

USSR Grants Moratorium on Foreign Debt J 1 1/B7
EL COMERCIO 31 Mar Editorial J 1 1/B7
Morales Wants Continued Talks With Creditors J 2 1/B8
Briefs: Ambassador to Venezuela J 2 1/B8

VENEZUELA

Joint Communique Issued on Visit of Barbadian Minister L 1 1/B9
OAS Envoy Instructed To Insist on Human Rights Investigation L 2 1/B10
Mexican Foreign Secretary Discusses Role in OPEC L 2 1/B10

PANAMA

Foreign Ministry Communique Denies Treaty Rejection N 1 1/B11
Torrijos Speaks on National Problems at Highway Inauguration N 1 1/B11
Former Foreign Minister Boyd Scores Treaty Changes N 2 1/B12
Opposition Calls for End to Torrijos Regime at APEDE Meeting N 3 1/B13
More on Statements at APEDE Meeting N 4 1/B14
Liberal Party Sends Letter on Treaty to U.S. Envoy N 6 1/C2
[MATUTINO 7 Apr]
Christian Democrats State Position on Amended Treaty N 8 1/C4
[MATUTINO 7 Apr]

CENTRAL AMERICA

Honduran, Salvadoran Ministers End Talks in Lima P 1 1/C5
Palma Galvez Satisfied P 1 1/C5

COSTA RICA

Oduber Rejects Wage Demand; Tension Persists P 1 1/C5
Briefs: New Appointments P 2 1/C6

EL SALVADOR

Construction Firm Executive Kidnaped by Subversives P 2 1/C6
Two Groups Claim Credit P 2 1/C6

GUATEMALA

Attempt To Damage Panamanian Economy Denied P 2 1/C6
Laugerud Comments on Belize, Other Issues P 3 1/C7
[EL IMPARCIAL 5 Apr]

HONDURAS

LA TRIBUNA Reports Chief of State Ill P 3 1/C7
Patrols Intensified Along Guatemala Border P 4 1/C8

NICARAGUA

Demonstrations Occur in Managua, Other Areas P 4 1/C8
Clash in Capital P 4 1/C8

10 Injured in Carazo	P 5	1/C9
Four Reject Appointments to Chamorro Commission	P 5	1/C9
Opposition Denounces Committee	P 6	1/C10
Government Minister's Comment	P 6	1/C10
Honduras Reports Violation by Nicaraguan Ships	P 7	1/C11
Pena Rivas Claims Innocence in Chamorro Murder	P 7	1/C11

CUBA

Foreign Ministry Raps British Secretary's Remarks	Q 1	1/C12
Coup Attempt Thwarted in Somalia	Q 2	1/C13
Another Group of Teachers Departs for Angola	Q 2	1/C13
U.S. Postpones Production of Neutron Bomb	Q 2	1/C13
Raul Roa Kouri New Ambassador to United Nations	Q 2	1/C13
Rafael Rodriguez Interviewed on Tasks of Revolution [Turin LA STAMPA 4 Apr]	Q 3	1/C14
Castro Visits Cement Plant in Mariel	Q 5	1/D2
Central Army Conducts Training Maneuvers	Q 5	1/D2
Ramiro Valdes Tours Isle of Pines Construction Sites	Q 6	1/D3
Garcia Pelaez Meets With CPSU Construction Delegation	Q 6	1/D3
Hart Closes UNEAC Provincial Meeting in Santiago	Q 6	1/D3
GDR Foreign Ministry Official Arrives for Visit	Q 6	1/D3

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LAWYER SLAIN AFTER JAIL RELEASE; OTHER SLAYINGS SUSPECTED

PY081732Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 8 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] The fifth case of a person disappearing immediately after being released from the La Plata Unit 9 prison has been reported within the space of two months.

The case came to light when Dr Juan Carlos Deghi, a respected labour lawyer from Zarate, was buried on March 25.

A large number of people attended the funeral, including the local bar association, and speeches were made to honour his memory.

Dr Deghi, who was abducted from his home in Zarate shortly after the March 24, 1976 coup, was eventually traced to a prison and had been held at the disposition of the executive branch for the past two years.

His wife had been informed that he was about to be released and she paid several visits to the prison. Finally she was told that her husband would be freed at 12 noon on March 21. In fact, he was finally allowed to leave the jail at 10 pm. His wife was waiting for him alone, although on previous visits to the prison she had been accompanied by friends.

As the couple left the jail they were kidnapped when they had walked only a short distance from the entrance.

Mrs Deghi was left in the street, reportedly handcuffed and hooded.

She saw her husband again when she was called to the Third Precinct police station in La Plata on March 24 to identify and take away his body for burial.

A death certificate handed to her by police gave the date of death as March 21.

A source, who asked not to be identified, said that the body was riddled with bullet wounds.

On January 31, four other men were released from La Plata Unit 9 jail and nothing has been heard of any of them since. The case of one of them, Gonzalo Carranza, was reported in the HERALD on February 13. His mother, Sara Garcia Muniz de Carranza, said that he disappeared along with three other men, identified as Segalli, Dominguez and Gallardo. All four, she said, were released from the prison at 10 minutes past midnight on January 31. Her son had served a three year sentence for possession of copies of subversive literature. Segalli was never charged with any offence. Little is known about the two other men.

Amnesty International has called upon the Argentine Government to investigate the disappearance of the men. The London-based human rights organization said that it had received information "from a good source" that they had been murdered.

EIGHTH LIST OF DETAINED PERSONS ISSUED

PY080235Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2310 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr--The Interior Ministry today released a list of 158 people who, as of 28 February, were still detained at the disposal of the executive branch in several prisons throughout the country.

The list includes 12 persons detailed in Misiones Province, 9 in Salta Province, 4 in Tucuman Province, 12 in Entre Rios Province, 8 in La Rioja Province, 11 in Santiago del Estero Province, 9 in Chaco Province, 11 in Jujuy Province, 18 in Mendoza Province, 33 in Santa Fe Province and 31 in Buenos Aires Province.

The list released tonight is the eighth to be disclosed since those detained at the disposal of the executive branch in several parts of the country began to be officially identified.

On Christmas Eve of 1977, when approximately 400 persons were released, it was reported that there were 3,706 persons detained at the disposal of the executive branch. Including today's list, 3,340 persons have been identified, leaving the names of 366 other detainees still to be released.

U.S. ANTITERRORIST GROUP CALLED 'REPRESSIVE'

PY060148Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Apr 78 p 6 PY

[Editorial: "United States and Terrorism"]

[Text] The concern of the White House with the expansion and stepping up of terrorist actions throughout the world has been expressed in very different ways. Some times, at international forums, the United States has condemned the most notorious events of this kind and it has demanded the implementation of supranational measures aimed at preventing and punishing the most characteristic actions of subversion, especially hijacking of planes and the kidnaping of their passengers. Recently, U.S. officials did not hide their satisfaction at the operations carried out by Israeli, German and Egyptian commandos to rescue hostages from the terrorists.

The U.S. attitude in these cases must be recalled in noting the recent decision by President Carter to create a commando unit on permanent active duty to counteract hijacking and other terrorist deeds which may take place outside the United States. Pentagon spokesman Harold Brown explained that President Carter's order was aimed at "increasing the country's capabilities to fight terrorism," in view of the government's concern over the fact that the United States was not prepared to take care of terrorist actions in remote parts of the world by means of incursions such as the one carried out in Mogadiscio.

Thus one sees that U.S. concern over this matter is no longer restricted to international forums in which it had uselessly called for the implementation of supranational measures. This does not mean that the White House has decided to give up the course of negotiation and legal analysis of the status of subversion and terrorism. It is,however, quite clear that Washington has decided to use a new repressive method which has no precedent beyond the historic rescue operation carried by Israeli commandos at the Entebbe airport in Uganda. It is significant that this and later events of similar nature have led the U.S. Government to its recent decision.

It still remains to be seen how the U.S. Government plans to justify punitive intervention in another country--intervention which may also entail casualties and damage--in light of respect for other countries' sovereignty and respect for human rights harmed by the use of force in a procedure whose legal status is doubtful.

INTERIOR MINISTER REFUSES REQUEST TO EXPEL CHILEANS

PY080058Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Text] During a brief meeting with the press, Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo said that there is tranquillity throughout the country. When asked about a request from Santa Cruz to expel Chilean citizens residing in the country, Jimenez Gallo said that all foreigners enjoy complete freedom here. However, as could be expected, foreign citizens will be expelled from Bolivia if they break the country's laws.

FSB'S GUTIERREZ, MOREIRA SPLIT OVER PEREDA SUPPORT

PY081443Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Leaders of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], headed by Gaston Moreira, have signed a document stating their support for Gen Juan Pereda Asbun's candidacy for the presidency. The ceremony held in the candidate's home in (Yepavi) was called proof of the patriotic and generous spirit of the FSB. Gaston Moreira stated, however, that the measure is subject to the approval of the next party convention, which will be held in 9 days. The key part of the document says: In order to preserve the unity between the armed forces and the FSB, whose past and future are indissoluble, the FSB resolves to support with dignity and honor General Pereda's candidacy for the presidency."

When Gaston Moreria, deputy national FSB chief, replied to some questions from newsmen, he said that the FSB supports General Pereda's candidacy without having joined the People's National Union [UNP].

He remarked that this support has become necessary for the various cells of the party throughout the country. He also said that the approval of the document, which does not show the participation nor includes the signature of Mario Gutierrez, the highest FSB leader, do not appear, does not signify a failure to recognize that leader.

He also said that the campesino leaders, who have stated their disagreement with the FSB for having joined the political groups which support General Pereda, had been manipulated.

The FSB leaders who participated in the ceremony were Gaston Moreira, (Mario Aguilar Zenteno), (Jaime Gutierrez Terceros), (Ismael Castro), (Armando Rodriguez), (Alejandro Quiroz), (Jaime Tapia Aripa) and (Javier Villa).

Presidential candidate Juan Pereda stated his deep satisfaction over the decision made by the FSB which strengthens his candidacy.

Meanwhile, in a document signed by FSB leader Mario Gutierrez, Gutierrez, the party has expelled Gaston Moreira. The document says: "In view of the fact that our comrades Gaston Moreira Ostria, (Mario Aguilar Zenteno), (Jaime Gutierrez Terceros) and (Ismael Castro Montano), the first of them deputy chief of the party and the others heads of regional councils [words indistinct] have not waited for the approval of the great national rally of the FSB and the Christian Democratic community, which has been called to nominate presidential and vice presidential candidates and to state the political program of our cause, and have committed high treason by proclaiming the personal candidacy of Juan Pereda Asbun, and since it is the first time in the spotless history of the FSB that such a great political treachery has been committed [words indistinct], it is decided:

"Single article: to publicly and ignominiously expel the abovementioned FSB members from the ranks of the party.

"[signed] Mario Gutierrez Gutierrez, FSB chief"

DISTRIBUTION OF DEPUTIES, SENATORS ANNOUNCED

PY080050Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Let us begin this program with the official report concerning approval of a decree law which establishes the number of deputies to be elected, as determined by the National Electroal Court. According to the government decree, the National Electoral Court has set the number of deputies to be elected in the elections to be held on 9 July at 111.

In reaching this decision the National Electoral Court studied the demographic organization of the nation's nine electoral departments on the basis of data supplied by the National Statistics Institute and the 1976 national census.

Of the 111 national deputies, 11 will represent Chuquisaca Department; 16 will represent Cochabamba Department; 22 will be from La Paz Department; 9 from Oruro Department; 17 from Potosi Department; 14 from Santa Cruz Department; 8 from Tarija Department; 8 from Beni Department; and finally 6 deputies will represent Pando Department.

With respect to Senate representation, the number of senators from each department will remain at three.

PRESENCIA URGES FAIR TREATMENT FROM DEVELOPED NATIONS

PY071907Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 5 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Editorial: "Democracy and International Aid"]

[Text] During the preliminary meeting of the World Bank advisory group, high U.S., FRG, British and Venezuelan officials attending the meeting said that their countries are willing to grant substantial aid to Bolivia if it becomes a democratic country.

It is natural--we all recognize it--that the existence of a democratic regime inspires confidence, stimulates credit and facilitates international aid, because nations are justified in granting each other mutual consideration when they negotiate under conditions of freedom of opinion and action.

People always prefer the democratic system--despite its weaknesses and errors--to de facto [as published] systems. The rules of the constitution and the laws are the best guarantee for the respect of human rights and the achievement of happiness for society through harmonious development.

We believe that democratization--the process in which we are now engaged--reflects a majority opinion in the country and that it is the only way of preserving peace and progress. For international aid, the contribution of capital and technology, to flow into this country--which, fortunately, is giving clear proof of its will to become constitutionalized--will depend largely on this democratization.

That aid or inflow of foreign credits to contribute to our development should be complemented by other means to promote our progress. The United States, for example, should show us its honesty and its policy toward real cooperation, by respecting our right to demand that no artificial change be made in the price of our raw materials--specifically in the case of tin and antimony--because such changes cause great economic harm to this country. We also need the democracy of the north to resolutely support us in our maritime aspirations, not only by giving us moral support but rather by stirring up a continental movement in search of a clear, just and balanced solution of the dispute in the South Pacific, which involves three nations and threatens the peace of the continent.

Another real and positive way of contributing to understanding among the democratic nations of the continent would be to study, appraise and really grasp the different social and economic characteristics which condition their respective national activities. Not all can be measured by the same yardstick, since each one of them is a separate and very distinct world which demands a different solution because of its different rate of development and the specific conditions of its community life.

The development and consolidation of democracy is aided not only through credits. And when those credits or other types of aid are granted, their conditions should be reexamined, because until now they have, basically, only represented mortgages which have been difficult to meet because of the low prices of our raw materials which precisely those developed countries make sure of fixing and, in addition, they charge outrageous prices for the products or the technology they sell us. We therefore believe that the developed countries should change, in their own interest, their policies toward the underdeveloped countries.

It should not be lost from sight that foreign policy, economic interdependence, the balance between prices and raw materials, social progress and the factors of housing, means of communication, health and cultural exchange, all play their important roles in the great policy of democratic rapprochement.

We wish to believe that this is also understood in the United States and Europe, where the nations of the Free World understand that it is high time to reduce the enormous differences in standards of living and development between the big industrialized countries and those of relatively less development. Democracy also means shared need, human solidarity, social and economic cooperation, as well as political agreement in the framework of continental equilibrium.

We believe that the return to a constitutional regime is well underway and we trust that international aid, in all its forms, will be forthcoming to defend the freedom and to promote the moral and material development of our people.

GUEVARA ARCE CLAIMS BOOK MANUSCRIPT CONFISCATED

PY071922Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Walter Guevara Arce, leader of the Authentic Revolutionary Party [PRA], has stated that the National Customs Board will return his luggage to him today; it contains the manuscript of his book, X-Raying the Negotiations With Chile. He charged that customs officials had confiscated his luggage.

ARENA OFFICIALLY NOMINATES FIGUEIREDO AS CANDIDATE

PA090339Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0219 GMT 9 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Brasilia, 8 Apr (LATIN)--The ruling National Renewal Alliance (ARENA) tonight officially nominated Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo as its presidential candidate.

In the vote by ARENA representatives from throughout the country, 775 delegates supported the candidate nominated by President Ernesto Geisel, 25 cast blank votes and 2 cast null votes, for a total of 802 votes. Thirteen delegates did not participate in the voting.

FIGUEIREDO TESTIMONY REQUESTED ON SNI INTERFERENCE

PY080348Y Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 8 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo may be questioned by the Chamber of Deputies regarding interference by the National Intelligence Service [SNI] in the private lives of Brazilian citizens.

This proposal was made today by Deputy Joaquim Bevilacqua [Brazilian Democratic Movement--Sao Paulo State] and Figueiredo will be questioned only if National Renewal Alliance agrees to the proposal.

Bevilacqua believes that the SNI causes the citizen to endure feelings of expectation, anxiety and fear and recalls that in 14 years of activity, it sponsored or subsidized the cancellation of the rights of more than 546 elected officials and the suspension of political rights of 1,047 citizens.

Bevilacqua states that Figueiredo should be questioned by saying: Nor do we know how many dismissals in public and private enterprises, how many passages into the reserves and how many compulsory retirements the SNI can be held responsible for.

O ESTADO VIEWS POLITICAL DIFFERENCES IN MILITARY

PY061641Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO De SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Apr 78 p 5 PY

[Article by E.P.]

[Text] Brasilia--Military circles which support the adoption of institutional openings are being alerted to the delicate nature of the present political situation. This is the main reason why there should be no statements made concerning security during the next few days, or even during the next few weeks.

Military observers say that the present phase should be marked by caution and that they should await more precise indications concerning the best tactical behavior to be adopted. Therefore, we are not dealing with immobility as some have said, but rather with its exact opposite--mobility and participation, which are the natural consequences of a gradual change from a strictly professional stance to a more active one. The same analysts believe that to the extent that there is a departure from the professionalism of the Brazilian Army--which is the greatest guarantee against military intervention in government's decisions --there is the possibility for any kind of developments.

It is precisely the awareness of this fact that must have influenced the decisions of Gen Hugo Abreau and Col Tarcisio Ferreira Nunes--even though there may be no connection between the two--to abstain from making statements, reports, or any type of manifestations which could provide an excuse for action by groups which long for the opportunity to exert pressure against any kind of political opening.

These appraisals, which are shared by military circles of various tendencies, reveal the concern that some more conservative and even rightwing military unit commanders have about the possibility of a political opening which could, according to them, cancel out all accomplishments toward economic recuperation and financial health, while inexperienced politicians practice demogaguery waving a flag of electoral seduction.

For those groups, the revolutionary process is in its final stage and to endanger it by sharing power with politicians before the appropriate time would be disastrous for all: for the revolution, which would be wasted, or would have to begin anew with a punitive phase to reaffirm itself; and for the people, who would be manipulated by unqualified politicians with a thirst for power who would certainly set the country back. And, as usual, the people would endure the most sacrifices.

Where is the root of the problem? In the press and in the Congress, the latter upholding and the former disclosing unrealistic theories which are not feasible on a short-term basis but which still arouse public excitement with the expectations they unleash. According to military members who support institutional immobility for some time to come--2 more years at least--rigidity, the quality of life and the implementation of a far-reaching social program have nothing to do with the reforms which are now seizing all the attention. The people become restless and suffer because of the dividing action of the political sector. Afterwards--depending on the levels of tension which will eventually be reached--the possibility of "separating those who divide" will be considered, in other words, a 1978 version of that 1964 phrase: "Let us eat our enemy before he eats us."

Obviously, the exitence of two lines of thought--for and against a political opening soon --cannot be publicly recognized by those who hold command posts in army units. The mere proclamation of unity in the army by Minister Bethlem some weeks ago and its reaffirmation by Gen Dilermando Monteiro 2 days ago during a television program provide the best evidence--according to politically active military circles--that the remarks by those authorities reflect a desire, and not a reality.

MINISTER PAULINELLI: RURAL VOTERS MAY SUPPORT OPPOSITION

PY071757Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Agriculture Minister Alysson Paulinelli has admitted that due to problems in the agricultural sector the rural population may give their support to the opposition although, as a matter of fact, the rural sector traditionally supports ARENA.

Minister Paulinelli said that the government will have to give special attention to the agricultural sector this year. He said that this is a difficult year due to crop failures. Corn losses, for example, will amount to 6 billion cruzeiros, and soybean and rice losses to 12 billion cruzeiros each.

He also said that the agricultural contribution to the trade balance may drop by more than $1 billion.

Regarding politics, he said that he does not intend to run for any other political position once his term is over.

INDUSTRY MINISTER PROMISES STEEL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN 1982

PY050337Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 4 Apr 78 p 20 PY

[Text] Industries and Commerce Minister Angelo Calmon de Sa stated yesterday that "no one should harbor illusions about the easy fulfillment of production targets outlined by the National Nonferrous Metals and Steel Council in its iron and steel master plan." Brazil will reach self-sufficiency in steel only in 1982, when the production of steel will reach 21.5 billion tons and domestic demand will be 21 billion tons.

The minister made this statement at the opening of the eighth Brazilian iron and steel congress, which is being held at the Intercontinental Hotel. The minister's statement followed the performance of the Brazilian Chamber Orchestra which played Vivaldi and Bach. The minister indicated that certain elements necessary for the fulfillment of the program will remain scarce, especially financial, human and technological resources.

Calmon de Sa announced that the measure which the government had implemented in April last year, in connection with a finished goods tax (IPI) loan for iron and steel projects, generated resources to the amount of 2.2 gillion cruzeiros up to December 1977. He indicated that Brazil's 1977 steel production--11.2 million tons--made Brazil the 14th, instead of the 16th, producer of steel in the world.

The minister reported that the increase in production allowed the country to overcome the record deficit of $1.3 billion in 1974 and to have only a $419-million deficit in 1977. This was the result of the top-priority attention given to the iron and steel sector, in which the country invested $5.1 billion from 1974 to 1977.

According to the minister, by 1982 certain lines of production will have some exportable surpluses as a natural result of iron and steel expansion programs. The difficult international situation of the sector will, according to the minister, force enterprises and government officials to conduct careful negotiations with these products, and no efforts must be spared to implement these exports. He added that the 1978 budget of SIDERBRAS is 41 billion cruzeiros, and fixed investments for proposed and approved projects for the period between 1979 and 1982 add up to about $11 billion, almost $3 billion per year.

BRIEFS

PETROBRAS FINDS OIL--Victoria--PETROBRAS announced yesterday that it has found oil near the mouth of the Doce River, where it has been prospecting since February. The oil has a density of 30 API and the well is capable of producing approximately 180 barrels per day. Experts indicated that the quality of the oil is among the best found in the country so far. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Apr 78 p 17 PY]

NEW NEWSPAPER IN ACRE--Deputy Tobu Nosser Almeida today reported the appearance of a new newspaper, GAZETA DO ACRE, in Rio Branco, Acre. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY]

ARMY DENIES ENTERING BOLIVIAN TOWN

PY080145Y LA Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Reports from Santiago say that the Chilean Army has denied that its soldiers crossed into Bolivian territory and caused disturbances in the town of Sepulturas. With regard to cable reports from La Paz that Chilean military personnel entered Bolivian territory and caused problems and disturbances in the town of Sepulturas, the Chilean Army responded: After returning from a routine visit, the commander in chief of the 6th Army Division and intendant of the First Region Tarapaca, stated that the reports transmitted by the EFE news agency are absolutely untrue.

According to the explanatory note from the Chilean Army, that region in Chile continues to be peaceful, and the call for calm in the face of these alarming rumors remains unchanged.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS TOWNLEY'S EXTRADITION TO U.S.

PY081317Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 8 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Michael Townley, the U.S. citizen who has lived for many years in this country, will be expelled by government resolution. Townley, 35, married to (Maria Lacallejas), was one of the persons cited in the request sent by the U.S. District Court in Washington that Chilean citizens Juan Williams Rose, who was discovered to be Townley, and Alejandrio Romeral Jara, who was discovered to be Army Capt Armando Fernandez Larios, be questioned.

The announcement that Michael Townley will be expelled from the country was made last night by Gen Rene Vidal, government secretary general, during a press conference he called for all the news media directors of the capital. An official communique was then published, announcing the decision regarding U.S. citizen Townley. Compliance with the U.S. request will end with Townley's departure. Another process, initiated at the request of the government regarding the suspicion that Townley and Fernandez had used official passports when they left the country between 22 August and 2 September 1976, is, however, still pending.

Townley's lawyer, Manuel Acuna, has said that his client should be put at the disposal of the Concepcion court which is investigating the murder of a painter at the beginning of 1975, an event in which Townley was allegedly involved. Acuna stated, however, that Townley was notified yesterday about the decree of expulsion which says that he will be expelled with the destination being the United States.

More on Other Charge

PY071612Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The Concepcion appeals court will reopen on Monday, 10 April, the proceedings for misappropiation of technical equipment at television Channel 5 and the death of Painter (Tomas Henriquez). The U.S. citizen Michael Townley, who has been in the news for the U.S. request regarding the Letelier case, is involved in the case. Townley could not be found at the time of the incident and the proceedings were closed [words indistinct]. Townley may be summoned and detained.

Townley Leaves for U.S.

PY081605Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 8 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, 8 Apr--U.S. citizen Michael Townley, linked with the murder of the former leftist Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier, left Chile today, expelled by the military government, it was reported here. The decision was taken because Townley violated current legal provisions on entering, residing in and leaving the country, an official statement released in Santiago indicated today. Townley is an electronics engineer who resided in Chile for 20 years. He was placed on board a plane of the Ecuadorean airlines which stops in Lima and Guayaquil with connections to Miami.

It was reported unofficially that two FBI agents traveled in the same plane.

PINOCHET PRAISES BORDER TALKS AGREEMENT

PY072140Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has stated that the agreement achieved in Buenos Aires by the joint Chilean-Argentine commission regarding the southern border dispute was very important.

[begin Pinochet recording] It is very important because we will now be able to (?discuss the issues) in a harmonious and peaceful atmosphere during the coming meeting of the second commission. [end recording]. He noted that this was the very agreement he had wanted when he and President Jorge Rafael Videla signed the Puerto Montt agreement.

President Pinochet met briefly with journalists today after attending the closing of the National Women's Secretariat seminar. Asked about Bolivian President Banzer's statement [words indistinct] be more careful in his statements regarding Chile. [passage indistinct]

Pinochet also reiterated the importance his government gives to participation by women and to the support from this sector for Chilean authorities.

Press Welcomes Agreement

PY072156Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1712 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 7 Apr--The agreement reached in Buenos Aires by an Argentine-Chilean joint commission on the Beagle Channel conflict was called "encouraging" here in Santiago. The government newspaper EL CRONISTA headed its lead item today: "Encouraging Chilean-Argentine Agreement." The inside pages report thoroughly on the basis of "harmony and equality" which the joint commission approved in Buenos Aires.

EL MERCURIO also devotes its main item to the conclusions of the group, which was made up of military representatives of the two countries.

The general agreements reached by commission No 1 on 6 April will be the basis on which commission No 2 will begin to work soon, with the objective of reviewing specific problems on the southern border.

Brig Gen Luis J. Ramirez, head of the Chilean delegation, returned from Buenos Aires and expressed satisfaction because an understanding was achieved within the 45-day deadline. He indicated the significance of the consultation mechanisms agreed to for cases of airspace violations and other similar emergencies. Ramirez said: "This will prevent misunderstandings not only in the southern area but also at any point on our border."

Rene Rojas, who recently completed his mission as Chilean ambassador in Buenos Aires, predicted fruitful work for commission No 2, which must deliver its conclusions in 6 months. He states: "I am absolutely certain that a solution will be found."

OFFICIAL PROVIDES DETAILS OF FUTURE GOVERNMENT

PY072304Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] Enrique Ortuzar Escobar, president of the Constitutional Reform Commission, has disclosed that the presidential term will be 8 years, according to the new constitution. The legislative branch will be made up of a senate and a chamber of deputies. He indicated that the progress which has been made permits a quickening of steps toward the country's institutionalization.

Once the commission has submitted the basic ideas for the constitution, which may be before 21 May, they will be studied by the Council of State and the government junta.

Ortuzar indicated that the country should feel satisfied because, thanks to the atmosphere of peace and progress which can be observed, the steps along the path to democratic normality for the nation can now be quickened. He indicated that the commission's proposals clearly specify the division of the state's powers among executive, legislative and judicial branches.

In the executive branch the president will have full powers but will be strictly controlled. He will remain in the post 8 years and cannot be reelected.

Ortuzar indicated that a future senator must be at least 35 years old in order to become a candidate. The senate will be made up of 45 national representatives. The chamber of deputies will be made up of 150 regional representatives. Ortuzar indicated, as we have already said, that a future senator must be at least 35 years old in order to run and a deputy 21 years old. One-third of the membership of the senate will be made up of senators named by the government and the other two-thirds of the senate and the total membership of the chamber of deputies will be elected by popular vote.

Finally, he expressed his opinion that the population--through a plebiscite--should give its opinion on the new constitution during the transitional period which is about to begin in the country, which could mean an end to the political recess.

LA TERCERA DE LA HORA URGES DISSOLUTION OF JUNTA

Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Apr 78 p 3 WA

[Article by Pablo Rodriguez Grez: "End of a Historic Task"]

[Text] It is my view that the vast majority of the Chilean people hold deep feelings of gratitude toward the armed forces and the carabineers. Thanks to their opportune and patriotic intervention, Chile did not fall into the clutches of international communism and did not become a base of operations for Soviet imperialism.

Also, during the past 4 years a resolute and stern management of the state has enabled us to return to a normal situation and to dress the wounds caused by the administration of the misnamed Popular Unity. Everybody, friends as well as enemies, acknowledges that the country has been successful in restoring social order, in reorganizing its economy and in neutralizing the disruptive activity of those who are trying to revive the past for the purpose of reopening struggles which will inevitably result in disorder, demagogy and class confrontation.

The intervention of the armed forces can only be justified in the national mind and in the eyes of the world as an answer to the power vacuum into which we were thrown by the Marxist government. Had the armed forces refused to heed the popular outcry urging them to assume power in September 1973, it is almost certain that the values which embody our national spirit would have desintegrated and that today we would be nothing but a satellite of Soviet imperialism like so many other enslaved nations, some in our own continent.

Therefore, the ruling military junta originated from an act of force as a legitimate answer to the blueprinted aggression of Popular Unity, which was making use of the constitutional powers and prerogatives of the executive power, had created in the country the material conditions for a revolution and was on the verge of achieving its purpose. In less than a thousand days and following a well-planned strategy which would lead to the total conquest of power by Soviet communism, Chile became a boiling pot ready to explode. It is true that the military proclamation violated the constitutional continuity but it is also true that this was originally violated by the schemes of Marxism which, while professing formal observance of this constitutional continuity, was eroding its foundations to replace it by a revolutionary and socialist order. And although the military action was in violation of the constitutional order, its legitimacy was based on its intention to fully restore that order since a revolution certainly means its abrupt desintegration and final destruction. To arrest a Marxist revolution, even though constitutional continuity has be be temporarily sacrificed, amounts to an act of democratic reaffirmation because the constitutional order is one of its irreplaceable foundations.

The conclusion to be drawn from what I have stated is that as the country gradually returns to a normal state the legal structure resulting from the military proclamation must gradually give way to new institutions embodying the democratic traditions of Chile and having a stability that will not rely on the use of force but on the free consensus of the citizens. In other words, full normality requires the emergence of institutions other than those created to restore it. To maintain emergency institutions in times of normality is like forcing a healthy person to stay for ever on a medical treatment which is not required. No doubt such a situation eventually becomes unbearable.

By this I do not mean to imply that Chile has fully recovered. However, to claim that the situation is similar to that of 1973 is nonsense and amounts to disregard for the work and achievements of the military government in the past 4 years. Therefore, I believe that the emergence of new institutions which will shape the future regime cannot be postponed any longer since the risk of the current military structures becoming exhausted in the near future threatens to plunge us into another crisis or to trigger a social explosion of disastrous consequences.

The military junta has completed its historic task. Its continued existence against the requirements of the present moment will be an insurmountable obstacle to the creation of a new system of institutions. A modern state cannot take shape nor can a political system be renovated if the executive and legislative powers are exercised by means of an emergency organism born of an act of force for the basic task of restoring peace, order and national security. Any attempt to think out or to create a constitutional and democratic regime with its roots planted in the most cherished national traditions will clash against a power structure that will prevent evolution and progress as it becomes crystallized.

The lack of communications is acceptable only for limited periods of time when, due to an emergency situation, it becomes advisable to set aside the organic channels recognized by the system. But to prolong that situation further than it is advisable, that is to say, after the emergency is over, can lead to serious social and political upheavals. Circumstances beyond its control forced the military junta temporarily to assume legislative and constituent powers and at the same time to cancel all the political bodies set up by the constitution. While we will not deny that those bodies contained faults and flaws, nonetheless they fulfilled an essential function. Mere advisory bodies which, at best, can be described as technical commissions were created to replace them. But the main function of the congress, for instance, its representative character and its supervisory attributions, were completely disregarded. The same can be said of the presidential regime: Instead of being reinforced to protect the principle of authority in accordance with our best national traditions, it became blurred and its most essential prerogatives were diminished.

With patriotic spirit, all the members of the military junta realize that the institutional period has started. There is even one of them who emphatically said so in recent speeches. In my view, the process can only start with the dissolution of the military junta. On 4 January of this year, the Chilean people gave their overwhelming endorsement to the legitimacy of the military proclamation and, therefore, to the subsequent running of government affairs. But at the same time they entrusted the president of the republic with the mission of presiding over and directing the institutional process. Therefore, it is obvious that the responsibility and the exercise of the executive power--with strengthened and reinforced attributions and prerogatives--rests on him while the new institutions that are due to be created will have the task of representing and speaking for the various social sectors of this country. Nobody, in the world or inside our borders, can claim that the institutional process allows for the continued existence of the military junta which, as already stated, is only legitimate in an emergency. This does not mean that during the new period the chief commanders will not have a prominent and important role to play in matters of national security but within a well-defined and limited sphere and in the framework of a consistent lawful constitutional plan.

GOVERNMENT MODIFIES GUN CONTROL LAW

PY071505Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--The government has modified the gun control law so that those persons charged with violations of this law will be rapidly released after paying a fine. At present there are many people serving sentences for the illegal possession of guns or the use of unregistered guns.

BRIEFS

FINANCE MINISTER TO EUROPE--Finance Minister Sergio de Castro will leave for Western Europe tomorrow. He will be accompanied by the vice president of the Central Bank and will visit Austria and the FRG. He is expected to return to Chile around 15 April. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Mar 78 PY]

FRENCH GOVERNMENT PROMISES AID--The French Government has confirmed the technical education assistance plan for Chile in the fields of agriculture, health, public administration and university education. Laboratory equipment donations, vocational training by French experts and a cardiology unit for Concepcion University are among the planned projects. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 78 PY]

LOAN FROM PRIVATE BANKS--Santiago, Chile, 7 Apr--A group of 40 private banks has granted Chile a loan of $210 million. The contract was signed today in London with the Chilean Government through the Chilean Central Bank. This is the most important transaction between the Chilean Government and the foreign private sector in 10 years. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1620 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY]

TRANSPORT SECTOR, STUDENTS CLASH OVER FARE INCREASE

PA062020Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] The urban transport dispute affecting Quito has apparently become a resistance struggle between the transport sector, which is supported by the government in its decision to maintain the new 1.40-sucre fare, and the students, who reject this with their tacit support for the passengers.

In contrast to prior occasions when efforts to increase bus fares were set aside in the face of popular pressure, the transport organizations today received an additional promise of support for their position from the government minister.

Juan Campana Quinteros, one of leaders of the urban transport owners, noted the position of the transport sector following his meeting with Government Minister Bolivar Jarrin: [begin Jarrin recording] We want to take advantage of this opportunity to address ourselves to the student sectors, to ask them to change their attitude, to calm down and to stop challenging the transport workers, because any attack on them is the same as an attack on the Ecuadorean people. [end recording]

According to the police chief, the toll, after 3 days of clashes, is 300 students and workers arrested. But according to student sources, approximately 500 persons have been arrested. Regardless of what the true figure might be, the fact is that either figure would be one of the highest number of arrests as a result of popular demonstrations in the past few years. This is evidence of the extent of police action taken to suppress demonstrators.

There have been new clashes in the area close to the (Montufar) school in this city's south side, in the vicinity of the medical school, which police entered to quash a demonstration of support by hospital workers. Meanwhile the law school of the Catholic university has been the target of tear gas grenades and the Central University campus is still surrounded by the police.

Police Chief Julio Rojas has told Radio Quito [Cadena del Triunfo]: [begin Rojas recording] The damage done to police vehicles has been extensive. It has been established that as of yesterday, losses amounted to 1 million sucres. We have been informed that today some motorcycles were set on fire, two patrol cars were totally destroyed and a police water cannon was damaged beyond repair. [end recording]

A student leader, Cesar Alarcon, gave the students' point of view during an interview with Radio Quito [Cadena del Triunfo] in which in addition to noting the problem of arrested persons he announced the formation of a front to protest against the high cost of living. [begin Alarcon recording] Often we have received the support, the protection and the help of popular sectors. The struggle of the students and workers right now is aimed not only against the bus fare increase but also against the price increases in staples such as rice and sugar, whose prices have gone up tremendously recently. In addition to this we are stating our rejection of the attempt to increase gasoline prices. We want to announce over this prestigious radio station that so far 527 students have been arrested. Approximately 200 students are--as far as we know--in the Tusuqui Barracks, and 300 students are under arrest at the (Yaguachi) Barracks in this city. We demand their immediate release. We demand the release of the students and of the workers who have been arrested. We vigorously demand the release of our comrade Pablo Herrera, president of the Quito branch of the Federation of Ecuadorean University Students [FEUE], and of other leaders such as Carlos Montero, president of the Association of Odontology Schools, who is also under arrest.

The FEUE wants to announce that it is inviting labor, peasant, teacher, student, intellectual, political, neighborhood, professional school, and parents organizations and the people in general to form part of a massive popular front to face the high cost of living and to struggle for democratic liberties. [end recording]

Bus Fare Dispute Abates

PA081306Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Quito--Bus service is practically back to normal in Quito and the bus fare is now 1.40 sucres, including the increase decreed by the government through the transportation authority. Army vehicles with armed soldiers have been patrolling the city and demonstrations are abating. The people have been obliged to pay more for poor service. Vehicular traffic has been relatively normal in Quito since the students desisted from holding demonstrations. The buses have begun operating, some protected with boards and others with wire mesh. The fare increase is being maintained and the passengers are obliged to pay the increase decreed by the government. The police are guarding the schools to forestall possible disturbances. Army vehicles with soldiers have been patrolling the streets to maintain order. Sporadic demonstrations were held this morning in Santo Domingo Park, where a clash occurred between students and police. Our news service verified that there were few demonstrations in Quito.

Meanwhile, protests and rejections of the bus fare increase are continuing because this increase adversely affects family finances. Leaders of outlying Quito districts have told us that they emphatically oppose the absurd bus fare increase because it aggravates the high cost of living. They said they support the students, who are the bastion of the people's interests, and criticized the bus monopolists. Students, peasants and workers are united to put an end to so much injustice, they said.

Alberto Santillan, Enrique Romero and Silvio Nogales, leaders of the [names of schools indistinct], protested the increase in bus fares because it increases the cost of living. They demanded the revocation of the oligarchic and unpopular decision and vigorously protested the arrest of their fellow students and condemned the police repression in which fellow students were injured, calling it social injustice.

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES CLOSER TIES WITH MEXICO

PA101333Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 9 Apr (AFP)--Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso said here today that revitalization of the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA) is "urgent and unpostponeable." In a speech during a dinner in honor of Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel, the Ecuadorean foreign minister said that "closer ties" between Mexico and the Andean group should be sought. He added that "Ecuador has and will continue to support integration processes." Jose Ayala Lasso also called for the expansion of trade between his country and Mexico, stating that "the action programs established by our two countries in the economic, technical, scientific and cultural fields have brought good results but they can be perfected and made more dynamic. Our mutual trade should be expanded and we should seek an adequate balance." He added that Mexico and Ecuador should have "even more effective ties." He said that the two countries "should update the mechanisms they currently have or create new and more modern ones."

The Mexican foreign secretary arrived here today for an official 48-hour visit. During the dinner he was decorated with Ecuador's highest merit award.

USSR GRANTS MORATORIUM ON FOREIGN DEBT

PA100100Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0024 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 9 Apr (AFP)--It was officially reported here today that Peru has managed to fully "restructure" its debt with the USSR, obtaining a moratorium on the payment of 80 percent of the debt. Gen Pedro Richter Prada, president of the armed forces joint command and army chief of staff, made this statement here on his return from Moscow. He had left for the USSR 10 days ago as the leader of a delegation to discuss the debt.

Richter said: "We have successfully completed the mission entrusted to us." Before leaving on his trip he had said that the debt with the USSR was not as large as was believed and that full payment of the debt had been scheduled for 1978, 1979 and 1980.

On his return he said that the payments will be made between 1981 and 1988 in view of the Soviet authorities' understanding of Peru's present economic crisis.

Richter declined to give more details about his mission, saying that he will make a full report to President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez.

Peru's foreign debt, which the government is intent on refinancing, is $4.2 billion, $900 million of which must be paid this year.

EL COMERCIO 31 Mar Editorial

PA091253Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 31 Mar 78 p 2 PA

[Editorial: "Efforts To Renegotiate Debt With USSR"]

[Text] A delegation headed by the president of the joint armed forces command, Division Gen Pedro Richter Prada, has left for the USSR to renegotiate the Peruvian debt with that socialist country. In the same way and for the same reasons which require a renegotiation of foreign debts with credit institutions of the Western world, the Peruvian delegation will try to obtain a new payments schedule which will lighten pending commitments for the coming years. As the head of the national delegation said when leaving, the service on the foreign debt with the USSR (amortization and interest) is not very large but still it contributes to overloading our obligations for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980 which have accumulated because they are short-terms loans and they upset our balance of payments. Our commitments to the USSR consist of loans to buy equipment, particularly for transportation, agriculture and national defense.

The delegation led by General Richter will meet with USSR leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Aleksey Kosygin. There is good reason to hope that its mission will meet with success. Socialist leaders criticize the hard conditions which have indebted the Third World to Western capitalism and they themselves are involved in the universal indebtedness which characterizes our times. Consequently, it is not unreasonable to expect special sensitivity in dealing with these questions.

But even if it did not exist, we will repeat something which is equally valid for socialists and capitalists: The request for new payment terms in no way entails economic loss for the lender and, on the contrary, shows the debtor's honesty and his will to live up to his commitments despite transitory difficulties. In the strange world in which we live, the debtor who asks for more time in which to pay becomes suspect immediately when in fact the situation is the contrary as he is offering assurances that the obligation will be met. It is plain commonsense that the borrower's problems automatically become the problems of the lender and intransigence complicates life for both of them.

Fortunately, Peru has an impeccable record of fulfilling its international obligations, and this is no time to undermine that image no matter what its problems are. It seeks only a fair and prudent agreement which will enable it to live up to its obligations and at the same time facilitate the continuation of a fruitful relationship which up until the present has evolved satisfactorily within a framework of equality and mutual respect.

MORALES WANTS CONTINUED TALKS WITH CREDITORS

PA051445Y Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1455 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA

[Text] In statements to the British magazine EUROMONEY republished by Lima newspapers yesterday, President Francisco Morales Bermudez stressed his government's interest in continuing negotiations with Peru's creditors in spite of the problems faced in reaching a reasonable agreement. The chief of state noted that "the declaration of a moratorium is like putting an end to dialog only to resume it later under different terms, terms that obviously lead to friction rather than cooperation. Some countries have used a moratorium as a last resort after seeing that all other alternatives had vanished. The Peruvian Government believes in dialog and negotiation and does not feel that the chances of reaching an agreement have vanished."

Morales reiterated that the Peruvian Government hopes to maintain the spirit of dialog to facilitate mutual understanding with the international banks which, "by having participated in the financing of the government's financing plans, are partners of our development in actual practice."

President Morales advocates changing the international financial balancing systems because they do not measure up to the real situations of developing countries. Instead, he suggests the granting of financing means in sufficient amount on a timely basis to offset the effects of the economic cycle in the industrialized countries. He also advocates a substantial change in the role of the IMF which, in his opinion, is an organization that should not interfere in the relations between lenders and borrowers. He feels that, as in any other contractual relations, these relations are based on the mutual confidence brought about by such relations and therefore they should not be tied to any agreement with an international body.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA--Javier Perez de Cuellar, the new Peruvian ambassador to Venezuela, left Saturday for Caracas to assume his post. [Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1451 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA]

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT OF BARBADIAN MINISTER

PA081947Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1210 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 7 Apr (VENPRES)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi and Barbadian Minister of External Affairs Henry de Boulay Forde have issued a joint communique on the occasion of the Barbadian minister's visit to Venezuela, where he talked with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and certain cabinet ministers. Among other things, the joint communique reaffirms the two countries' adherence to the charters of the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

The joint communique states that relations between the two countries were reviewed and it was decided that the friendly links existing between them should be strengthened.

The two foreign ministers reaffirmed their convicion that man can develop only in a system which allows full exercise of freedom.

They discussed respect for human right, which is the duty of every society, and expressed the hope that the American Convention on Human Rights will soon enter into force.

They reiterated their government's firm determination to work jointly to achieve the prompt establishment of a new international economic order.

The two foreign ministers emphasized the importance of the process of Latin American integration in reinforcing cooperation among all the states of the region and reaffirmed their strongest support for subregional integration organizations.

The two ministers reaffirmed their decision to contribute actively to the objectives, purposes and operational mechanisms of the Latin American Economic System (LAES) to enable it to carry out its important functions.

They reaffirmed their determination to insure, along with all the nations of the area, that the Caribbean will be a politically stable area in which mutual respect constitutes the basis for a peaceful and effective relationship among all the countries of the region.

The two governments also agreed that there is a need for an economic development program in the Caribbean which will promote cooperation between the countries of the area and the rest of Latin America in order to contribute to the achievement of economic and social development that fulfills their aspirations.

The two nations also agreed that there should be a prompt and equitable solution to the problem of Belize.

In addition, they decided to consider negotiating an agreement to avoid double taxation, as well as to resume talks to improve and expand air and transportation services between the two countries.

The two countries also agreed that conditions are favorable for initiating an exchange of technical missions charged with studying and pinpointing future areas [of cooperation], primarily in the areas of agriculture, fishing, public housing and trade.

It was also agreed that Venezuela will send a mission to Barbados to study matters related to the special areas of forage, fruit cultivation and irrigation systems, and that Barbados will provide more information about its projects in the areas of agricultural production and the processing and storage of foodstuffs.

In the area of housing, Barbados will send of group to technicians to meet with Venezuelan builders in order to consider the possibility of developing joint public housing projects and to become acquainted with the techniques and construction materials used by Venezuelan industry.

The two governments reviewed the level of trade between them and agreed that it could be expanded. In addition they agreed to establish a joint Venezuelan-Barbadian commission as an organ for coordination, consultation and evaluation of the joint projects between the two countries.

The two parties expressed satisfaction with the signing of a cultural exchange agreement which reaffirms the ties of friendship existing between the two countries and will permit the development of closer cultural and educational cooperation between the Venezuelan and Barbadian people.

OAS ENVOY INSTRUCTED TO INSIST ON HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATION

PA070434Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Jose Maria Machin, Venezuelan ambassador to the OAS, has said that Venezuela will insist on an investigation of human rights violations in Nicaragua by that organization. Machin stated that he had received specific instructions from the Foreign Ministry to insist repeatedly that the OAS conduct an investigation. He noted that it should be demanded that the Nicaraguan Government respect human rights, which are flagrantly violated by Somoza's government, as has been proven by the frequent denunciations received by the international organization.

Machin said that Somoza's charges against the Venezuelan Government and its president will be worthless before international organizations. He concluded by stating that the charges made by Somoza are groundless and that they only contribute to a loss of international prestige by the Somoza government.

MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY DISCUSSES ROLE IN OPEC

PA081640Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1211 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 7 Apr (VENPRESS)--Mexico and Venezuela have complementary and not competitive economies, said Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel Garcia here when asked about the role his country's oil plays in OPEC.

The foreign secretary said Mexico is an observer in OPEC and its petroleum prices are not competitive with those set by OPEC. He said: "We follow closely OPEC's policy and our economies are complementary and not competitive."

Asked about the situation in Nicaragua and Venezuela's position on defense of human rights, he said Mexico respects the principle of nonintervention but has viewpoints in common with those of Venezuela in international forums.

Today chief of state Carlos Andres Perez invited Foreign Secretary Roel to a lunch at Miraflores Palace which was attended by the cabinet and representatives of the different Mexican secretariats.

FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE DENIES TREATY REJECTION

PA072359Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2322 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry denied this afternoon reports issued abroad that Gen Omar Torrijos' administration has already rejected the U.S. Senate amendments and reservations to the canal treaties.

A communique released this afternoon by Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla states that the Panamanian Government maintains its stand of not issuing an official statement on the Senate modifications until the process of ratification of all the agreements ends in the United States. A text [as heard] of the communique states:

The Panamanian Government's decision stated in a letter addressed by Gen Omar Torrijos to President Jimmy Carter on 14 March and the declarations issued by the Foreign Ministry not to state its views on the approval or rejection of the treaties with amendments, reservations or understandings is still the official position of the Panamanian Government until the U.S. Senate concludes the debates and votes on the second Panama Canal treaty.

The communique adds that this explanation is made because the government contends that the Panamanian people voted on two treaties, not just one. It is also made to deny reports that the government has already adopted an official position on the approval or rejection of the neutrality treaty.

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry states that these reports have been released abroad by certain foreign news agencies with the aim of confusing and misrepresenting the firm and clear-cut position of the Panamanian Government on such a sensitive subject.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, chief of the Panamanian negotiating team, said this afternoon that the message that Panama sent to the foreign governments through its UN delegation merely explained Panama's position in principle regarding U.S. ratification, but without definitely rejecting the amendments [pero sin rechazar definitivamente las enmiendas].

TORRIJOS SPEAKS ON NATIONAL PROBLEMS AT HIGHWAY INAUGURATION

PA081904Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1732 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera at the inauguration of the La Pintada-Toabre Highway in Cocle Province--live]

[Excerpts] Once again, we resume our dialog with Panamanians at a time when the people need their leaders and the leaders also need to see the causes of the people's suffering. Just as you are suffering deeply today, considering national events, and just as you are wondering if you have the personal strength to face up to all these problems, in the same manner I am thinking a lot about you, because at present it is being decided whether or not we will continue to exist as a country.

These inaugurations of projects are invaluable at this time. They are necessary because I need to look at the faces of the people. The more I look at these faces, the more I am strengthened and determined to continue struggling. And the more I look at these faces, the more convinced I am that one can talk with this country. What is completely certain is that at no time have I felt discouraged; I have not felt weighed down by the national events. [interrupted by repeated shouts of "Omar, face forward, the people are here"]

Let us wait calmly to receive the final results of what is happening in the United States and later we will speak in much more detail, with more objectivity, and with opinions that have been somewhat more carefully thought out and more carefully weighed.

It is true that not since 1929, not since the 1930's, has the country experienced an economic situation as distressing as this one.

The coming 6 years should be 6 years in which the country must increase its rate of progress in order to recover the normal growth which was suspended some 3 years ago for reasons which we have been unable to control and which the rest of the world has been equally unable to control.

There are many elements of wealth in the country which, if administered or developed by a serious government and a [word indistinct] people, allows us to know that in a very short time, we will achieve levels of development in which the government will be able to guarantee to the Panamanian family economic security, a stable job, and a school system or health system in which the facilities are no more than a 5-cent bus ride or a half-hour walk away.

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD SCORES TREATY CHANGES

PA082000Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1748 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Former Panamanian Foreign Minister Aquilino Boyd told ACAN-EFE here today that the changes made by the U.S. Senate to the neutrality treaty are illegal, immoral and insulting and for this reason he is asking General Torrijos' government not to accept it.

Boyd said that after studying the Senate's amendments he reached "the conclusion that the neutrality treaty has been changed substantially, which is equivalent to a rejection (by the United States) of the treaty."

"The best thing the national government can do," he added, "is to declare, without waiting for the Senate to finish considering the other document relating to the Panama Canal treaty, that the reservations are unacceptable and consequently we consider the treaty rejected."

The Panamanian Foreign Ministry and spokesman for the chief of government's office have said that there will be no official pronouncement on the amendments until the Senate finishes its task.

In the meantime, reaction here against the Senate's treaty changes is increasing and not one opinion in favor has been voiced publicly.

Quoting politicians and U.S. press media former Foreign Minister Boyd said that the senators have used subterfuges to try to assure a U.S. military presence in Panama after the year 2000 when, according to the original text of the canal treaties, it should terminate.

"It is not necessary to read Senator DeConcini's offensive explanations (he is the author of the principal amendment) to conclude that the Senate, in approving his proposal, annulled the meaning of the agreement signed in September 1977 by Torrijos and Carter," the former minister said.

"President Carter," Boyd added, "should be warned that this is not the way to build a true partnership between the United States and Panama, nor is it the way to establish a new era between the United States and Latin America."

OPPOSITION CALLS FOR END TO TORRIJOS REGIME AT APEDE MEETING

PA072128Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1540 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[By Antonio Martinez]

[Text] Panama City, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian opposition has proposed the end of the regime installed in Panama by the National Guard in 1968 as a solution to the country's problem, but the government has answered that anyone thinking that way "is entertaining illusions that will not come to pass."

At a meeting convoked by the Panamanian Business Executives Association [APEDE], opposition spokesmen and government representatives yesterday evening discussed for many hours the political perspectives of this tiny nation.

The leaders of the Liberal, Panamenist, Christian Democratic and Independent Democratic Movement parties, some more emphatically than others, demanded "the end of the military dictatorship."

Luis Felipe Clement, member of the Board of Directors of the Panamenist Party, said that the country is going through a political, economic and social crisis without precedent as a result of the "ineptitude" of the government headed by Gen Omar Torrijos.

The Panamenist Party (populist, according to its enemies) was created by former President Arnulfo Arias, who still leads the party. Arias was overthrown on three occasions. He has been living in exile since the military coup of 1968.

Clement said that the present crisis has become more acute as a result of the U.S. Senate amendments to the canal treaties because the Torrijos government "is lost" and does not know what road to take now that Panama faces "the most serious crossroads in its history." Clement warned that it is necessary "to find the democratic way." He made an "appeal to national unity for a reconstruction process."

Tomas Herrera of the Independent Democratic Movement (recently created, center-left) said that there is a general awareness that the regime is inefficient and that therefore it must be changed. As other speakers, Herrera noted Panama's economic stagnation of the past few years and pointed out the increase in foreign debt and unemployment.

Herrera accused the government of choosing survival in power over patriotism in accepting the new canal treaties. He, again like the other opposition leaders, challenged the validity of the corregimiento representatives elections to be held in August. Several sectors have said that these elections will be a fraud aimed at perpetuating the military regime.

Regarding the amendments to the canal treaties--which have already been approved here in a plebiscite--Herrera said that the government is in trouble since the agreements with the United States are seen by the regime as the only way possible to get out of its crisis.

Herrera proposed the creation of "a government of national unity with the participation of the majority to solve the crisis." He explained that this would be "a transition government that would open the way for a constituent [assembly].

The Christian Democracy's spokesman was Richard Arias, who accused the government of human rights violations.

Arias said that Panama faces "the worst crisis of its republican life" as a result of the lack of confidence of the people in an inconsistent, inefficient, improvising and unpredictable administration. He rejected the official thesis that the lengthy canal negotiations and the treaty ratification problems are to blame for the crisis and added that the treaties would not represent a solution for Panama.

Arias agreed with the other opposition leaders in stating a flat "no" to the amendments and reservations made to the new canal treaties by the U.S. Senate.

David Samudio, president of the Liberal Party (one of the largest in Panama), also criticized the economic and social policies of the Torrijos government. He flatly rejected the Senate amendments and noted his concern over the dead end situation that will result from the failure of the treaties.

Speaking on behalf of the government, Torrijos' personal adviser and friend, former National University Rector Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, told the opposition: First of all, "there is no going back to politics." He went on to explain that it would be illusory to think about a return to the political structures prior to 1969.

Bethancourt denied that the present government had failed and that the Panamanian situation is worse now than it was before the military coup. He reiterated that the National Guard will not accept being sent back to their barracks again with the sole mission of carrying out repression on orders from the oligarchy, as was the case before.

He concluded by announcing that the government will carry out a popular consultation on the Senate amendments to the canal treaties, but he would not specify if this consultation would be in the form of a new plebiscite like the one carried out here on 23 October for the ratification of the treaties that the U.S. Senate is now changing.

More on Statements at APEDE Meeting

PA080315Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Last night's monthly meeting of the Panamanian Business Executives Association [APEDE], which lasted until 0100, was attended by representatives of four political parties--the Liberal, Christian Democratic and Panamenist parties and the Independent Democratic Movement--and Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, who represented the government.

In the meeting, Luis Felipe Clement, representative of the Panamenist Party, said there is a need for the truly representative legislative body separated from the other government branches so that the laws will be the result of broad and free debate. Clement said that the executive branch should be elected in free and democratic elections directly by the voters through political parties which are the best means for expressing the people's will. He added that the judicial branch should defend citizen's rights, instead of being the lap dog it has become.

Dr Tomas Herrera, representative of the Independent Democratic Movement, described the current regime as inefficient, saying that there is need for change. He harshly criticized the government's economic policy, charging that Panama took measures which were the opposite of those taken by other countries to curb inflation. He said that those measures worsened Panama's economic situation. Among those measures, he indicated the discouragement of private investment. Regarding state investments, Herrera said that in many cases the national government made political rather than technical decisions.

He specifically mentioned the examples of the sugar mills, the state cement plant, the agroindustrial projects and Tocumen airport. To conclude, Herrera indicated that there is need for change in the administration as far as name, direction and orientation is concerned, along the lines of a national unity government.

Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, representative of Christian Democracy, said that never before in any administration had the rights of so many Panamanians been violated for political reasons. He called for the return of exiled Panamanians who want to do so. He said that this is the worst crisis that the republic has ever faced. He added that the current economic situation is the result of the mistrust of investors and employers and the statist [estatista] tendency of the government in economic affairs. He also refuted the view that the treaty negotiations are to blame for the economic crisis. Instead, he blamed unwise political and economic measures for the Panamanian economic situation. He also called for the creation of a national planning council.

In his speech, Arias Calderon said there is a crisis in other sectors of the national life since the labor, peasant, student and other organizations are either instruments of the government or their activities are restricted. Referring to the National Guard, Arias Calderon said that it should be limited to three areas: public order, national defense and a specialized contribution to the country's social and technological developments. He said it is necessary to create a ministry of national defense and public order in Panama.

David Samudio, representative of the Liberal Party, said that the only goal of the current political system is the maintenance of the regime in power, the nonexistence of political parties and the unfree selection of the president of the republic. Samudio called for the reorganization of the Panamanian political system before tension and discord convert it into chaos. He also asked for changes in the nation's political structure. The representative of the Liberals also asked that the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives and the president and vice president be elected offices. [sentence as heard]

Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, representative of the government, said the only mistake that the government has not committed is that of alienating itself from the people. He said that one thing of which he is certain is that in politics one cannot go backward. Escobar Bethancourt added that those who believe that in this period of government a step back can be taken are living an illusion that will never become reality because the true wisdom of a citizen is to strive for better goals. He noted that the Panamanian people will not permit the disappearance of the system of representation. Escobar Bethancourt said that one cannot disregard the great work of the assembly of representatives because there is the reality of the aqueducts, roads and schools which were not built before because it was not in the political interest to link political work with our nation's development.

To conclude, the representative of the government said that the National Guard does not want to go into the street to repress the people because of decisions that it did not make. Regarding the treaties, he said that the government will carry out a broad consultation on the amendments, reservations and understandings.

This exchange of viewpoints promoted by APEDE served as a dialog between representatives of the private sector--executives and owners of enterprises--and representatives of the government. It also served as a forum for some of the participants on the panel or in the audience to express their views for the first time either because of previous (?inhibitions) or other types of restrictions.

Near the end of the meeting, Dr Arias Calderon commented on the beginning of a consensus on Panama's political future as shown by those present.

[begin Arias Calderon recording] (?I want to) comment on the assembly of representatives. I do not remember hearing any of the panelists indicate that it is absolutely necessary that we abolish or destroy the assembly of representatives. If I remember correctly, in his speech David Samudio proposed the tentative idea of two types of representative bodies. He spoke of two chambers. It is very difficult that... [changes thought] it was said here that we doubted if the assembly was representative. I reiterate my case of Playa Chiquita where there are 35 voters and one representative. Since there can be five candidates, 30 voters are left to vote. The one who obtains seven or eight votes wins over those who obtain six or less votes. If the candidate has a big family and is a parent who knows how to control his family, he will be elected. [laughter] I do not want to make a joke of this because I think this is serious. I bring this up because when one uses extreme examples you get a good idea of the rest. There is a problem of the real, effective, concrete representation of the assembly of representatives. There is a serious problem when 6.5 percent of the representatives, or 35 representatives, represent 35 percent of the voters.

There is also a serious problem--and General Torrijos has initially recognized it--regarding the functions of that assembly. So there is the problem of its representation and its function. I also heard David Samudio state that perhaps it is not the best legislative body, that it could have certain functions, probably social ones related to the administration of the local political life, but that there is also a need for a representative legislative body and not a legislation commission appointed by the executive branch.

So I do not think--unless I have not heard correctly--that here we have been necessarily proposing clear-cut alternatives. We have been discussing real alternatives for real problems regarding the assembly and the need for truly elected legislative bodies. So I think it is much more productive to talk about those real problems as Dr Escobar Bethancourt said earlier. There are times when longer, more extensive and technical meetings between the government and the opposition groups can be very fruitful. Each of the groups present here has made a call, in one way or another, for a consensus, an agreement which is not achieved through speeches but through negotiation. At some time we would like to know if the current government is interested in negotiating certain important changes with the groups present here and other groups so that tomorrow will not be merely the continuation of the present and that it will also not be a return to yesterday. [applause--end recording]

LIBERAL PARTY SENDS LETTER ON TREATY TO U.S. ENVOY

PA080117Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Apr 78 pp 8B, 8A PA

[Letter from Liberal Party Directorate to U.S. Ambassador to Panama William Jorden dated 5 April 1978]

[Text] Mr William Jorden, U.S. ambassador to Panama.

Honorable Mr Ambassador:

I am attaching to this letter a copy of the Liberal Party statement issued yesterday which recommends the rejection of the amendments, reservations, understandings and declarations introduced by the U.S. Senate to the treaty on the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal because the party believes that some of them detract from the scope of the agreed clauses and others are offensive to Panama's sovereignty.

During the talks held with U.S. senators, which were coordinated by your embassy, we maintained the position that any modification, reservation or amendment to the approved texts would be unacceptable to Panama since as a result of the exchange of viewpoints we could foresee that there were plans to introduce a number of measures that would invalidate the contents of the treaties.

We were not mistaken, Mr Ambassador, as was shown by the U.S. Senate's approval of new clauses, reservations and declarations that invalidate important clauses of the neutrality treaty. This was made worse by the little consideration and respect, as well as the offense to our nation's dignity, shown by the amendment presented by Senator DeConcini.

We cannot fail to express in this letter the U.S. Senate's responsibility in having ostensibly politicized the treaty debates and for having overlooked or given little importance to the need of creating a new relationship of friendship and cooperation between our two nations. Likewise, the U.S. Senate has shown little consideration for the negative effects and mistrust that the Latin American countries and the world in general will have regarding the United States. They will cause a bad impression and even distrust in the countries which are currently negotiating treaties or agreements with the United States since those countries could conclude broadly and thoroughly discussed agreements with the U.S. Government but a legislative body could in a few days destroy what is recommended by experience, previous events, reports, studies and justice. In our case, the Torrijos-Carter treaties have been the culmination of 13 years of work.

We sincerely express to you, Mr Ambassador, our concern over the negative effects that the rejection of the treaties will have in relations between Panama and the United States. So far, after 60 years in operation, there has not been a single act of sabotage or any condemnable action against the interoceanic waterway. During the two world wars and the Korean and Vietnamese wars when the canal served in an outstanding way to transport warships, troops and supplies of the U.S. armed forces, there was not a single attempt at sabotage by Panama. Since the canal was built, there has not been a single strike or halt by Panamanian personnel who work at the canal. In conclusion, the conduct of the Panamanians has been loyal and correct. Despite our lack of an advanced technology, we have compensated for this difference with you through loyalty and friendship.

We repeat, Mr Ambassador, that the negative effects from Panama's rejection of the modifications, reservations and so on introduced in the treaties by the U.S. Senate will be the responsibility of the United States. It is obvious to foresee that in the future, resentment, frustration and even deceit will drive us apart. Only God knows what will come in the near future. It would thus be advisable that your government and Senate study the possibility of saving these treaties. If that is not achieved, it is indubitable that your country will be responsible for having lost the opportunity of doing justice to a loyal, friendly country, giving sure proof of your anticolonialism, of projecting an image that will permit you to pressure other nations to exercise and respect human rights and to maintain your lofty image as a great world democracy.

With all our consideration and esteem, very truly yours,

David Samudio, president,

Joaquin Franco, vice president,

Political Committee: Guillermo E. Quijano, Roderick Esquivel, Jorge R. Riba, Arnulfo Escalona R., Adolfo Icaza, Oscar Ucros, Jose A. Arango, Jaime Ortega, and

Julio Harris, acting secretary general

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS STATE POSITION ON AMENDED TREATY

PA072340Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 7 Apr 78 p 12B PA

[Communique of the Christian Democratic Party released in Panama City on 6 April 1978]

[Text] Consistent with its unswerving position on the Panama Canal issue, Panamanian Christian Democracy deems it necessary to state its views at this hour of serious decision when the U.S. Senate has "ratified" the "Treaty Regarding the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal." This ratification, due to the amendments, reservations and understandings it contains, turns said treaty into a new pact subject to further negotiation, approval and signature by the Panamanian executive branch.

In view of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, Christian Democracy states that the most negative aspects of the pact are related to the so-called "neutrality" and, among other things, the following:

1. "The possible unilateral and unlimited military intervention by the Pentagon in the national territory, disguised as a supervised neutrality of a perpetual nature.

2. "The fact that under the alleged guarantee of neutrality, we should allow the United States of America to interfere after 1999 in activities which are the sole concern of our sovereign army, such as the canal's operation and efficient management and the setting of tolls and other rights and rules.

3. "The unjustified extension of the peculiar concepts of neutrality agreed upon to any other interoceanic waterway that might be built."

By "ratifying" said treaty, the U.S. Senators have worsened the causes of conflict by injuring our patriotic feeling way beyond what Panamanian Christian Democracy had foreseen.

That is why Panamanian Christian Democracy feels that the reforms and amendments, reservations and understandings introduced by the U.S. Senate on 16 March when it "ratified" the "Treaty Regarding the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal" constitute a rejection of the treaties negotiated between the parties and ratified by the Republic of Panama during the plebiscite held on 23 October 1977. Therefore, the national government should proceed to immediately term unacceptable to national honor the "neutrality" pact as it has been ratified.

Even though it would be constitutionally binding for the national government to submit the amendments, reservations and understandings to a plebiscite if it accepts them, Christian Democracy feels that the mere fact of wanting to submit them to a plebiscite would be offensive to the historical struggle of the Panamanian people.

Panama, 6 April 1978

For the national director of the Panamanian Christian Democracy, Clovis Aleman Jr, acting secretary general; Guillermo A. Cochez Jr, acting assistant secretary general

HONDURAN, SALVADORAN MINISTERS END TALKS IN LIMA

PA071356Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Reports received yesterday in Tegucigalpa directly from Lima, Peru, indicate that talks between the foreign ministers of Honduras and El Salvador, initiated the following Dr Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero's installation in office as mediator, have ended. The talks between the foreign ministers, Roberto Palma Galvez of Honduras and Alvaro Ernesto Martinez, of El Salvador, were held privately in one of the main hotels in Lima. At the end of the deliberations the foreign ministers reportedly submitted a report to mediator Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, with whom they have maintained close contact.

In addition it was confirmed that Dr Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero will arrive in Central America in June. First of all, he will visit the Honduran-Salvadoran border to get a firsthand look at the progress being made in pacification of the area. Later, he will visit the Central American countries to discuss the comman market that is being considered in the region in line with the seven provisions of the OAS resolution of 27 October 1969, which serves as the basis for achieving a definitive peace settlement between Honduras and El Salvador.

The exact date has not been given, but it is known that the mediator in the peace talks will visit the area in June.

Palma Galvez Satisfied

PA081308Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Honduran Foreign Minister Roberto Palma Galvez returned to Honduras yesterday. In his first statement to SERCANO, he expressed satisfaction at the mediation efforts of Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero and confirmed that Bustamante y Rivero will come to Honduras and El Salvador in June to ascertain how the peace effort is doing. Bustamante y Rivero will also visit the other countries of Central America as he wishes to know everything related to the Central American Common Market, one of the subjects on the agenda of the Honduran and Salvadoran delegations that was included by an OAS resolution of 27 October 1969.

COSTA RICA

ODUBER REJECTS WAGE DEMAND; TENSION PERSISTS

PA081331Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] No agreement has been reached on the salary increases. Government workers will not accept an increase of less than 400 colones monthly. In Guancaste yesterday President Oduber said categorically that such an increase was unacceptable because it would add up to more than 1 billion colones. The situation is tense at this time, especially because government workers have announced that they may strike if an honorable agreement is not reached.

BRIEFS

NEW APPOINTMENTS--Julio Rodriguez Bolano, a staff writer for the newspaper LA REPUBLICA, has accepted the post of coordinator general of the presidential advisers in President-elect Rodrigo Carazo's government. [San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1220 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA] [SERCANO Network] President-elect Rodrigo Carazao has appointed Eduardo (Robert) as executive president of the National Council of Production in the next administration. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA]

EL SALVADOR

CONSTRUCTION FIRM EXECUTIVE KIDNAPED BY SUBVERSIVES

PA071802Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1454 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--It was announced here today that Gustavo Cartagena, a 51-year-old Salvadoran who is president of the Arco S.A. construction firm, was kidnaped here Thursday night by a group of heavily armed persons. The kidnaping took place in the company offices across from the U.S. Embassy in this capital. Ernesto Oyarbide, the company's public relations director, reported that the crime took place at 1900 (0100 GMT) when either four or six persons carrying submachineguns forced Cartagena to leave with them. Throughout the company's 28-year history, Cartagena has alternately occupied the post of president and secretary of the firm. Cartagena has also been president of the autonomous port executive committee.

Two Groups Claim Credit

PA092005Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1808 GMT 9 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Two subversive organizations, the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FRAP) and the Workers Revolutionary Organization (ORT), today claimed credit for the kidnaping of engineer Gustavo Cartagena, president of a large Salvadoran construction firm. He was kidnaped by a group of armed men on Thursday night at his office.

In a communique the FRAP and ORT note that "the kidnaping operation took place at the firm's offices, which are located at the south end of the U.S. Embassy building, by eluding security measures in this area, which is heavily patroled by the repressive corps." The communique refers to the payment of a "war tax" and says that Cartagena is in a "people's jail." It adds that Cartagena's kidnaping is the prelude to "great future battles by the people against the military dictatorship on a fascist escalation." [as received]

The two subversive organizations claimed credit 8 months ago for the foiled attempt to kidnap industrialist Raul Molina Canas, who was killed during the operation.

GUATEMALA

ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE PANAMANIAN ECONOMY DENIED

PA071209Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0209 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 Apr (AFP)--Guatemala today officially rejected the accusation that it is trying to upset the Panamanian economy, a statement which was attributed here to Gen Omar Torrijos. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes said that there is "no connection whatsoever" between a project to construct an interoceanic oil pipeline and a supposed attempt to damage the Panamanian economy.

It was reported that a U.S. company intends to construct an oil pipeline in Guatemala to transport Alaskan oil destined for the eastern United States. This project has provoked comments from the Panamanian Government, according to which this is an attempt to decrease the traffic through the Panama Canal.

LAUGERUD COMMENTS ON BELIZE, OTHER ISSUES

PA092149Y Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 5 Apr 78 pp 1, 11 PA

[Excerpts] I am hopeful that the Belize problem will be solved before the end of my term, President Gen Kjell Laugerud Garcia said in a news conference. The president said that he had spoken to the foreign minister and had asked him to hasten the resumption of negotiations and to do everything possible to solve the differences with England before July.

The president received the press in his office yesterday shortly after 1030.

He later referred to an alleged massing of armed individuals along the border with Honduras in preparation for an invasion of Guatemala. He said that if these rumors turn out to be true, he will talk with his Honduran colleague Melgar Castro so that they can jointly "eradicate" the subversive forces.

He also disregarded all rumors about an alleged conspiracy and said that they were the result of the Guatemalans "love of rumors."

"In case there are anti-Castro commandos in Guatemala, the army will vigorously fight them," he added. He said that the army was steadfast and loyal and was not "for sale to the highest bidder."

Regarding the charges of fraud made by the National Liberation Movement (MLN) and Guatemalan Christian Democratic (DCG), he said that they were caused by the "Guatemalans' love of rumors and scandals." The electoral process is over and we already know which candidates won the presidency and vice presidency, he said.

The president believes in the army's loyalty and does not believe that it could form part of a plot to overthrow him.

Asked about rumors of a plot, he said that these recur every 4 years. "Those who believe that the army will foster a coup d'etat believe that the armed institution is for sale to the highest bidder."

He added: "If the politicians believe this, they are completely mistaken because each army officer is an honorable man and the army is not, nor will it be, prostituted [prostituido] by any political party."

HONDURAS

LA TRIBUNA REPORTS CHIEF OF STATE ILL

PA081739Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--A local newspaper, LA TRIBUNA, reported here today that Honduran chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar Castro "is seriously ill." According to the newspaper, it received the information from a presidential spokesman who did not reveal what was ailing the chief of state, who has had to set aside his duties.

The report says that General Melgar looked emaciated and weak last Thursday when he went to an inauguration in Comayagua valley, central Honduras. At the inauguration of an irrigation system and a privately owned industrial plant in Comayagua, the chief of state for the first time made no speech and returned immediately to the capital without participating in other ceremonial events.

PATROLS INTENSIFIED ALONG GUATEMALA BORDER

PA072302Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] According to several international news agencies, elements affiliated with Guatemala's National Liberation Movement may have entered Honduran territory to prepare for an invasion of Guatemala. In view of this report, which has not yet been confirmed, the chiefs of the Honduran Armed Forces have given specific instructions to intensify routine patrol operations along the border with Guatemala. In the same manner, the border areas and the maritime coasts have been [words indistinct].

If armed groups have indeed infiltrated Honduran territory through the border with Guatemala, Honduran military forces will adopt the measures deemed necessary under the circumstances to safeguard the inviolability of our territory while guaranteeing the safety of residents in that region and preventing our country from being used as a base for armed attacks against the governments of friendly countries.

NICARAGUA

DEMONSTRATIONS OCCUR IN MANAGUA, OTHER AREAS

Clash in Capital

PA081253Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2225 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 7 Apr (LATIN)--Violence erupted in Nicaragua again today while a student-workers movement demanded better prison conditions for Sandinist National Liberation prisoners.

Student groups unexpectedly took over the workers house located in the southwestern section of Managua next to the national stadium. At the same time, other student groups were still occupying four secondary schools in the city of Masaya, where homemade bombs continue to explode at night in the Monimbo community and the National Guard continues its intense patrols. Several demonstrations also were dissolved by the National Guard last night in Matagalpa, Leon and Chinandega.

A group of demonstrators tried to take over an arms store today in Chinandega, but the attempt failed when neighbors answered the owners' call for help.

Several schools in the capital which were on strike on Thursday, including "Teresiano" and "Centroamerica", were operating normally today, as the strike was to last 24 hours only. According to reports, other schools, which include the "Pedagogico" and the "Center of Higher Studies," began a strike which is to last throughout the weekend.

Meanwhile, fliers from the recently created "Committee for the Freedom of All Political Prisoners" have been circulating and are calling not only for better prison conditions, but for the freedom of all prisoners whether they have been tried or not.

10 Injured in Carazo

PA100153Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0104 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Diriamba, Nicaragua, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--At least 10 persons, including a 5-year-old and an unidentified woman who was shot in the head, sustained bullet wounds today, Sunday, as a result of the "hunger march" which hundreds of peasants from districts in Carazo Department, in southern Nicaragua, tried to organize. The purpose of the "hunger march" was to protest President Anastasio Somoza's statement during a news conference on Tuesday that "the Nicaraguan peasant does not suffer from hunger but, rather, from an unbalanced diet."

The demonstrators were shouting slogans demanding food, health care and land to be worked so that they could meet their families' basic needs. When the group ignored the military officers' order to leave the area, the troops fired.

In the afternoon it was learned that leaders of the Association of Women Concerned with National Problems (AMPRONAC) in Diriamba were trying to locate Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbiship of Managua, in an effort to get him to intercede with the military authorities so that dozens of peasants who took refuge in private homes, which are now surrounded by army patrols, would be allowed to return to their districts.

Some 30 students who had taken over the Leopoldo Serrano National Institute in Diriamba were violently dislodged by soldiers after the peasant demonstration was dispersed.

The city's entrances and exits are being guarded by groups of soldiers who are inspecting vehicles and demanding that all persons transiting the area identify themselves.

Meanwhile, student groups continue to occupy public and private high schools in almost all the cities of the republic. The student protest is being carried out in solidarity with the hunger strike which certain mothers, relatives and student leaders have been staging for the past 8 to 10 days in several towns. They are demanding an end to the isolation of prisoners belonging to the clandestine Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), which is considered to be a form of torture added to the sentences that they are serving.

FOUR REJECT APPOINTMENTS TO CHAMORRO COMMISSION

PA071702Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1504 GMT 7 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 7 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--It was reported here today that four of the seven members of the commission appointed to review the trial concerning the assassination of opposition journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro have rejected their appointments by the Nicaraguan executive branch. Only a few hours after the official announcement concerning the appointment of the members of this commission, it was learned that Alfonso Robelo, an opposition business leader, and Rodolfo Abaunza Salinas, an independent journalist, categorically refused to be included in the group.

Managua's Archbishop Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo and jurist Felix Esteban Vuandique have also tacitly rejected the appointment.

It is believed that jurists Ramiro Granera and Ildefonso Palma Martinez, both members of the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party, are probably the only ones who will accept their appointments.

Most of those who have refused to participate in the special review commission claim that the government wants to put "a burning coal" in their hands. They also say that it is the judicial branch which should investigate this crime, which occurred on 10 January of this year, doing so until the crime's intellectual authors are finally discovered.

Meanwhile, Xavier Chamorro, assistant director of the newspaper LA PRENSA of this capital and brother of the assassinated journalist, has commented that the appointment of this commission "is evidence of President Somoza's weakness." He added that General Somoza "does not trust the investigations of the judicial branch" and that he is just "passing the hot potato on to other people."

Concluding, he remarked that if the government has repeatedly said that the investigation was conducted "normally, why appoint a revisory commission? That is suspicious."

Opposition Denounces Committee

PA090434V Madrid EFE in Spanish 2241 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 8 Apr (EFE)--Nine opposition groups and two labor centrals today termed the creation of a special committee to investigate the killing of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro "a mockery of the Nicaraguan people."

The opposition groups and the labor centrals stated that the creation of the committee is a "new farce" of Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime.

The opposition groups noted that the appointment of the committee shows that the administration is not making efforts to "discover the masterminds of the crime."

The communique was signed by the leaders of three factions of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, two factions of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, the Independent Liberal Party, the Constitutional Movement, the new Nicaraguan Democratic Movement and two labor centrals.

Government Minister's Comment

PA090435V Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0033 GMT 9 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 8 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Government Minister Jose Antonio Mora Rostran described the views of this country's opposition groups that the appointment of a special committee to review the trial concerning the killing of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro is "a mockery of the people" as "bold."

The opposition groups say it is a mockery because Minister Mora Rostran, who will preside over the committee, "has already ated his views that the proceedings--which have been considered irregular--concerning the killing of the opposition newsman were conducted with care and precision."

Concerning the opposition groups' views that the archbishop and his representatives should not participate on the committee "due to its lack of legal effectiveness," the minister contended that it would be vested with full powers and that the decree which created it establishes no limits or restraints on the committee's findings. "Therefore, there is no mockery of the people as the groups which endorsed the rejection claim. They are bent on conducting a smear campaign which has no limits in regard to reason or human and political ethics," he said.

HONDURAS REPORTS VIOLATION BY NICARAGUAN SHIPS

PA081202Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Roatan, Honduras, 7 April (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan coastguard ships entered Honduran territorial waters, captured two Honduran fishing boats and took them back to Nicaraguan territory, it was reported here today. The incident occurred yesterday near the island of Roatan, in Honduran territorial waters in the Atlantic, due to the lack of naval forces to protect the islands in the bay. The Honduran fishing boats captured by Nicaraguan coastguard ships were "Mister Bill" and "Victoria," which only had time to transmit messages reporting that they were being apprehended.

According to Honduran authorities, the incursion made by the Nicaraguan Coastguard ships was completely illegal.

PENA RIVAS CLAIMS INNOCENCE IN CHAMORRO MURDER

PA101210Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2146 GMT 9 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 9 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Silvio Jose Pena Rivas, the main suspect in the murder of opposition newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal, has asked the Chamorro family to believe in his innocence. He claimed to have no part in the crime and said that "he was compelled to admit it because of tortures and threats against him." In a letter sent to Xavier Chamorro Cardenal, brother of Pedro Joaquin and present director of LA PRENSA, from the Tipitapa jail, the prisoner asked the Chamorro family to believe in his innocence so that, with the aid of LA PRENSA, his two young daughters and wife "will not be despised by the people because of a crime of which I am innocent."

The letter was allegedly "private" but was read yesterday, Saturday, over a local Managua station by the lawyer and brother of the prisoner, Rolando Pena Rivas, who blamed Xavier Chamorro for whatever may happen to his brother. Chamorro had pressured him to make the letter public and to place it in the hands of investigating judge Guillermo Rivas Cuai.

During the investigation Pena Rivas was noted for his accusation that several outstanding persons in the country were involved in the crime. In his last declaration he said that the brain behind the crime was the Cuban-American Pedro Ramos Quiroz, manager and partner of the hemotherapy industrial center (Plasmaferesis), dedicated to the export of human blood plasma.

In his letter to Xavier Chamorro, Pena Rivas said that the statements he made to the police judges were the product of demands, tortures and threats which he suffered at the police station and "which compelled me to sign with a hood over my head and, at other times, in front of the instruction judge."

He made serious charges against police officials and warned that if this letter is published "it would compel the corrupt government authorities to eliminate me and my family."

FOREIGN MINISTRY RAPS BRITISH SECRETARY'S REMARKS

FL071233Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Foreign Ministry press communique]

[Text] The foreign affairs secretary of the United Kingdom, Dr David Owen, in an unusual manner, at an inappropriate occasion and place, and breaking the most elemental norms of respect for protocol, in a word, in a manner inappropriate for his position, has considered it suitable to criticize and launch attacks on the foreign policy of other countries, among them the Republic of Cuba. By proceeding in this manner, Mr Owen seems to have forgotten that he is the representative of a colonial power which for centuries was considered the example of oppression and mistreatment of African peoples and which thereafter has been characterized, through its different parties and governments, by trying to maintain British colonialism and that of other powers under modern neocolonial forms.

The representative of this policy is therefore in no position to teach respect for the sovereignty and independence of the African peoples to any other government, and much less to Cuba, a country which, through enormous sacrifices, has overcome the attacks and threats from the principal imperialist power in our times, gained and strengthened its independence, and, exercising international solidarity, has assisted democratic, revolutionary and popular governments such as those of Angola and Ethiopia.

Perhaps Mr Owen, distorted by the historical experience of British colonialism itself, is incapable of appreciating the noble and unselfish role which small nations, including Cuba, have in history today when they fight alongside their brothers in the search for and guarantee of independence. But the peoples of Africa and underdeveloped countries do understand this and, therefore, Cuba's action has received the support and solidarity from both the African peoples and the fifth nonalined countries summit conference held in Colombo.

The internal Ethiopian situation, including the Eritrean problem, concerns the Ethiopian people and government alone, and the United Kingdom's foreign secretary does not have the right to meddle in these affairs, which in any case would have to be discussed by parties involved in this historic process. Mr Owen, with an obvious sense of irresponsibility and bad faith, repeats all the lies spread by imperialism and its spokesmen on this specific problem. Moreover, he is trying to distort the Cuban position with respect to the problems of Zimbabwe and Namibia, making noise about a hypothetical danger that Cuba wants to impose a solution to these problems militarily and with the participation of Cuban troops. This gross hoax is put forward by Mr Owen despite the fact that the British Government is aware of Cuba's position on this problem by having repeated it more than once to the UK ambassador in Cuba.

The Cuban Government vigorously rejects the unusual arrogance with which Mr Owen, going back to the days when the roar of the British lion frightened the world, tries to disguise its neocolonial intentions in Africa by allegedly working for the independence of the African people and world peace.

COUP ATTEMPT THWARTED IN SOMALIA

PA100354Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre said in a message broadcast throughout the country that he had thwarted a coup d'etat against his government which was led by officers and enlisted men. The Somali chief of state said that those involved in the coup attempt have been arrested and will be tried.

International news sources have expressed the opinion that this action against the Somali Government is the result of the expansionist policy implemented by Siad Barre during his recently defeated military adventure against Ethiopia.

ANOTHER GROUP OF TEACHERS DEPARTS FOR ANGOLA

FL072240Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2202 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Text] A group of 125 young professors, members of the Che Guevara internationalist teaching contingent, today departed for Angola where they will teach in secondary-level schools. Hundreds of relatives gathered at the airport to bid farewell to the youths. Others present at the airport were Arbelio Carmenate, director of international relations of the Education Ministry, and Bento Quijano, director of protocol of the same ministry.

The total number of Cuban teachers in the fraternal People's Republic of Angola now is 685 out of the total of 732 which will make up the contingent. The members will teach seventh and eighth grade for 1 year. Heading the group was Professor Elias Alexis Carrasco. This group will go to the provinces of Luandan, Moxioco, Mocamedes and (Gavela).

U.S. POSTPONES PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON BOMB

FL081930Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Apr 78 FL

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter has announced his decision to postpone the production of the neutron bomb, according to a White House report. The document affirms that a definitive decision on the neutron bomb will be made at a later date, but there is no indication that the North American government will at any time renounce the production and emplacement of the weapon for the extermination of human beings.

At the same time, it was announced that President Carter had ordered the Defense Department to begin the modernization of nuclear warheads for Lance missiles and other weapon systems which, according to observers, is directed at the future use of the neutron bomb in them.

Meanwhile, throughout the world, the wave of protests against the U.S. plans for production, emplacement and use of the neutron bomb has continued.

RAUL ROA KOURI NEW AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS

FL071656Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1603 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Council of State has appointed Raul Roa Kouri as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary representing the Republic of Cuba at the United Nations. Roa Kouri held the position of adviser to the Council of Ministers vice president in charge of foreign relations.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ INTERVIEWED ON TASKS OF REVOLUTION

LD071013Y Turin LA STAMPA in Italian 4 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Furio Colombo interview in Havana with Council of State Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez: "When Cuba's Dreams Come True"--date not given]

[Excerpt] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, regarded by those who believe that they have experience of Cuba as Fidel Castro's No 2 and even considered by those who are not his friends to be a person of considerable intellectual and political qualities, told me with a cautious and cordial smile: "LA STAMPA has not always been a friendly newspaper in the past, but I am glad to hold this conversation with you. There is always a good opportunity for understanding each other."

The room is simple but without presumptions of sham poverty. It is the normal office of a normal minister. Physically, Carlos Rafael and his assistants seem to come from different worlds. The minister has an old-fashioned politeness and a neat 19th-century-style gray beard. But the style is the same--polite without condenscension, frank if necessary and rarely formal: "A country is usually judged in accordance with the criteria of a civilization organized differently. Cars? We have few and they date back to the revolution. Certainly, we do not despise them. We would like to have more; it is pointless to explain to you why it has not been possible in all these years. However, we would like even more to have more efficient and more modern buses and public transport. So the judgment depends on the kind of life which a country sets for itself. Among the many forms of violence from which we want to free the rising generation we also see the violence of consumption and its danger. And we have set ourselves the task of giving everybody a living standard which is not poor but as egalitarian as possible."

The remarks which I mentioned earlier (?there is nothing wrong in wanting well-being, and well-being is at least a house, a refrigerator, a television set and a washing machine") comes from this conversation. Carlos Rafael Rodrigues tells me: "We have not yet achieved all this--not for everybody. But despite contradictions, great efforts and difficulties, this project is like a wave which rises slowly. Children, for instance, are already part of this constructive adventure. Gradually, we hope to involve all groups and all generations."

Discussing government organization, the deputy prime minister tells me: "Yes it is true. We tend to treat Fidel like common property. But it is also true that Fidel's style has made this country into something different, which an attentive observer may be able to perceive. It is not a stereotype copied from distant models but our own question for solutions to our own problems, in accordance with our own history."

I observe a note of pride. "The Caribbean revolution" does indeed seem to be something which does not follow models, and one cannot fail to note the characteristic which Rodriguez calls "style." "We have two psychological and organizational problems," the Cuban leader continues. "The first is that one can never say them and us. This is the moment when a revolution runs the risk of the formation of a bureaucratic class. Maybe we can boast of having avoided this risk so far. The second is to keep a great moral mobilization alive. Everyone must feel not only that he is participating but that he is a protagonist."

Rodriguez recalls that Marx taught "the limits of revolution, the need for not only moral but also material incentives." I would like to remind him that Castro's style seems to stress, in propaganda and public education, the country's history as a liberation process which begins with the liberal bourgeoisie of the 19th century and that he still has a large liberal component in the Sierra 26 July movement.

But Carlos Rafael Rodriguez makes an even broader reference: "Our real political vocation is internationalist and in our tradition and in our present there is no picture which ajoins our island's shores. The process of change in the world is a much broader phenomenon, and we must feel that pulse and not only that of our own events and problems."

He leans across his desk and, smiling, defines the three principles (or the three ingredients) which lie behind the combination of facts, ideas, people and events which make up "the Cuban revolution." "We can list them as follows: solidarity, romanticism and pragmatism." I am surprised by the second word. I would have used it very readily with reference to many remarks, attitudes and recollections which Fidel Castro routinely introduces into his speeches, but I might have thought that it sounded offensive. Rodriguez says it without altering the tone of his voice, just like the first and third words, that is to say, as a value.

He explains to me that part of the solidarity consists of the universal revolutionary heritage and that of the Cuban struggle, with all its components. He defines "romanticism" as "the tendency (Castro's obviously) to set no limits on dreams." And the word "dream" does not seem to me to have any negative meaning, just as the word "romanticism" does not. The expression "pragmatism" is a method of pointing out to a visitor conditioned by America the capacity for interpreting facts and problems in accordance with the limitation of what is possible, the characteristics of history and the resources available or which can be created, that is to say, a continuous practical testing of the romantic adventure, or "a way of experiencing great hopes with one's feet on the ground."

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez seems proud of the theoretical picture which he paints for me--but without boasting and with no attempt to "sell" a picture to his guest. The list of what remains to be done, which he explains to me in detail (especially housing and products to raise living standards), is much longer than the list of things done.

"At least 30,000 people in Havana are still waiting for a decent home," he tells me. For those who have known this city in the past, this seems a small figure. For those who remember the living conditions of the cane cutters (or have spent a period in Nicaragua recently and have seen how time has stood still at the semislavery of the last century) the changes seem incredible, nonetheless.

"But there is one thing that we can say for certain," he says toward the end of the conversation. "Nobody is hungry, the food is better and production, despite a thousand and one problems, permits us to live decently." There is something else, he adds, which may surprise those with experience of "socialist building" in other countries: "People dress better, with variety. We are trying to increase the choices available to personal taste. This is important too."

The conversation continues, especially on the problem of education and children, to which I devoted a good deal of my visit. But the Cuban leader is anxious to stress another point: "As far as we are concerned, autonomy and protagonism in political life are an encounter between a historical factor and Fidel Castro's style. We have had a more favorable tradition than elsewhere. We have had the American threat, which has united us. But we have not had the Russian deviations of Stalinism. We are," he concludes with a smile of true pride, "the first socialist society without the handicap of history."

CASTRO VISITS CEMENT PLANT IN MARIEL

FL081900Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State, has visited the cement plant under construction in Mariel, west of Havana. He chatted extensively with the workers at the project, where he climbed a ladder 18 stories high to greet personally the construction workers building the cement grinding mill.

During the visit Fidel expressed interest in the status of the construction project. The construction workers pledged to complete the first phase of the work by September of this year and the gigantic grinding mill within 3 months. The Mariel cement plant will be the largest in the country and will produce 1.4 million tons per year. Once the first phase is completed in September, the plant will be able to produce some 700,000 tons per year. The total cost of the plant is about 100 million pesos.

In his conversations with workers and leaders, our commander in chief showed interest in the safety measures that have been adopted to avoid accidents. During his talks with Oscar Rodriguez, chief of the construction brigade, Fidel asked him when will the plant be completed. It is expected to be in operation some time during the first 3 months of 1979.

CENTRAL ARMY CONDUCTS TRAINING MANEUVERS

FL072015Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Central Army units have conducted the 17 April training maneuvers in honor of one more anniversary of the founding of that command, the victory at Playa Giron and the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. Command posts and security units were deployed on the grounds to conduct intense maneuvers with the participation of both regular and reserve officers, sergeants and soldiers.

The main objectives of the maneuvers were to verify the levels of performance of general staffs, to apply knowledge and experience gained under field conditions, and to contribute to raising still further combat preparedness and readiness. The members of military unit No 2259 conducted night firing exercises in honor of the party assembly meeting of the command and the 11th festival, attaining the grade of satisfactory. The efforts of the combatants to help each other was outstanding and, particularly the assistance given to the new soldiers who were carrying out that type of task for the first time. A Central Army tank unit also conducted firing exercises against naval targets, attaining the grade of excellent. Those participants training as tank chiefs and gunners dedicated their successful results to the 11th World Youth and Students Festival.

Col Jose Milian Pino, chief of the Central Army, congratulated the combatants on the results achieved in the exercises.

RAMIRO VALDES TOURS ISLE OF PINES CONSTRUCTION SITES

FL082255Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 8 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, has toured the construction sites of the citrus fruit packinghouse and hospital of the special municipality of the Isle of Pines. At the citrus fruit packinghouse, the largest project under construction on the Isle of Pines, Ramiro Valdes and those accompanying him were extensively briefed on the project. The PCC Politburo member also visited the Nueva Gerona Hospital, which is being expanded, chatting with construction workers at the site. Ramiro Valdes was accompanied in his visit to the Isle of Pines by Construction Materials Industry Minister Jose Valle Roque and First Deputy Minister Raul Cabrera.

GARCIA PELAEZ MEETS WITH CPSU CONSTRUCTION DELEGATION

FL071308Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Raul Garcia Pelaez has met in Havana with the CPSU Central Committee construction department delegation which is visiting us. The delegation is headed by its deputy chief, (Ivan Diatrov). Several topics on relations between the two parties were discussed at the meeting, held at the PCC Central Committee headquarters.

HART CLOSES UNEAC PROVINCIAL MEETING IN SANTIAGO

FL071248Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 78 FL

[Text] In Santiago de Cuba Armando Hart Davalos, Politburo member and culture minister, has made the closing remarks at the activity establishing the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba--UNEAC--Executive Committee for this province, which is the first in the country. At their first meeting the members of the committee elected Jose Soler Puig as chairman, Felix Perez as deputy chairman, (Pedro Arate) as organizer, and (Raul Pamaran) and (Electo Silva) as members.

Identification cards were given out at the meeting to 46 new UNEAC members in the province, which has 65 Santiago artists and writers in its membership. The activity establishing the UNEAC Executive Committee in Santiago de Cuba also approved of including Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida, Politburo member, as an honorary member of the music affiliate.

In his remarks at the activity establishing the UNEAC Executive Committee, Hart stated that work is being done to create a UNEAC affiliate in Camaguey and the rest of the provinces.

GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL082045Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Wolfgang Meyer, chief of the GDR Foreign Ministry press and information department, has arrived in our country at the invitation of the Cuban Foreign Ministry. During his stay Meyer will meet with leaders of our mass information media and visit places of economic and social interest.

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